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of the gymnosperms and angiosperms contains a few illustrations from articles by CHAMBERLAIN and Miss PACE which had been published in the BOTANICAL GAZETTE. The articles on paleobotany were first written by POTONIÉ, after whose death they were revised by KUBART in Graz. In these articles the work of SEWARD is never mentioned, and SCOTT is hardly considered. The articles on plant genetics are more up-to-date, and best of all are those on physiology and anatomy.

The lack of knowledge with regard to American and English botanical literature is very pronounced in many German publications. The geologists in Germany know more English because they have to read the publications of the U.S. Geological Survey.—A. C. NOÉ.

**Origin and development of Compositae.**—SMALL<sup>3</sup> has assembled in book form his papers on the origin and development of the Compositae, which appeared in the *New Phytologist* during 1917-1919. It is an application of our knowledge of evolution, heredity, and geographical distribution to the immense amount of material presented by this great family. This study has been carried on for ten years, and "in so far as success has been achieved in the unravelling of the tangled skein of descent of this particularly large group of angiosperms, it is due to the recognition of new criteria and the critical revision of the old criteria."—J. M. C.

**Joseph Dalton Hooker.**—BOWER<sup>4</sup> has written a most interesting account of Sir JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER for the series of booklets issued by the "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge," under the general title "Pioneers of Progress," and the subtitle "Men of Science." The titles of the brief chapters suggest the contents: Birth and education; Foreign travel; Kew; Authorship; The species question; Personal characteristics; Hooker's position as a man of science. The author and his style form a combination that insures authoritative statements and interesting presentation.—J. M. C.

**Flowering plants and ferns.**—Under this title WILLIS published the first edition of his manual and dictionary in 1897. A second edition appeared in 1904, a third in 1908, and now a fourth edition has been published.<sup>5</sup> The purpose is to supply a convenient summary of information about plants, and the result is a very convenient book of reference. The most noteworthy feature of the present edition is the incorporation of all the parts of the earlier editions

<sup>3</sup> SMALL, JAMES, The origin and development of the Compositae. pp. xi+334. pls. 6. London: William Wesley & Son. 1919.

<sup>4</sup> BOWER, F. O., Joseph Dalton Hooker. pp. 57. New York: Macmillan Co. 1919.

<sup>5</sup> WILLIS, J. C., A dictionary of the flowering plants and ferns. Fourth edition. pp. xii+712+liv. Cambridge: The University Press. 1919. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.